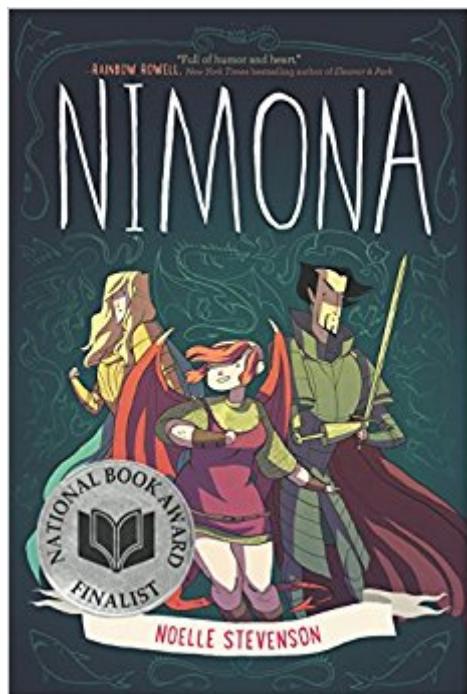


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# Nimona



## Synopsis

Indies Choice Book of the Year \* National Book Award Finalist \* New York Times Bestseller \* New York Times Notable Book \* Kirkus Best Book \* School Library Journal Best Book \* Publishers Weekly Best Book \* NPR Best Book \* New York Public Library Best Book \* Chicago Public Library Best Book

The New York Times bestselling graphic novel sensation from Noelle Stevenson, based on her beloved and critically acclaimed web comic. Kirkus says, "If you're going to read one graphic novel this year, make it this one." Nemeses! Dragons! Science! Symbolism! All these and more await in this brilliantly subversive, sharply irreverent epic from Noelle Stevenson. Featuring an exclusive epilogue not seen in the web comic, along with bonus conceptual sketches and revised pages throughout, this gorgeous full-color graphic novel has been hailed by critics and fans alike as the arrival of a "superstar" talent (NPR.org). *Nimona* is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. As sidekick and supervillain, Nimona and Lord Blackheart are about to wreak some serious havoc. Their mission: prove to the kingdom that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his buddies at the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are. But as small acts of mischief escalate into a vicious battle, Lord Blackheart realizes that Nimona's powers are as murky and mysterious as her past. And her unpredictable wild side might be more dangerous than he is willing to admit.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: HarperTeen; 1 edition (May 12, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062278223

ISBN-13: 978-0062278227

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 318 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,795 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > Science Fiction & Fantasy #27 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous #354 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up  •This celebrated webcomic, a mash-up of medieval culture with modern science and technology, is now available in print. Lord Ballister Blackheart, a knight, has assumed the role of a supervillain in order to expose the nefarious schemes of the kingdom's front organization, The Institute of Law Enforcement. The kingdom's champion is Lord Blackheart's nemesis and former best friend, Sir Ambrose Goldenloin. Blackheart's prickly relationship with Goldenloin further explores the limits of their friendship. Enter the title character, a brash young shapeshifter who doggedly follows Ballister until he agrees to take her on as a sidekick. Nimona's skills as a shapeshifter up the ante in the ongoing rivalry between Ambrose and Ballister. Despite her anger management issues, the teen becomes Ballister's invaluable ally and together they form an alliance of mutual trust and dependence. Action scenes dominate as Nimona shifts with Hulk-like ferocity from frightful creatures such as a fire-breathing dragon to a docile cat or a timid child. Dialogue is fresh and witty with an abundance of clever lines. A complementary color palette of Blackheart's muddy browns contrasts with Goldenloin's fresh transparent yellow-greens. Both color schemes highlight Nimona's intense reds. Readers will note subtle visual differences in webcomic images. The print edition includes an exclusive epilogue not available online. At its core, *Nimona* is a story of rescue. Each of the main characters rescue allies, friendships, the Kingdom, and ultimately, themselves. VERDICT A vibrant solo work from "Lumberjanes" (Boom!) cocreator  •Barbara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

 "Noelle Stevenson has a knack for capturing the humor and heart in a situation in just a few panels."  (Rainbow Rowell, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Eleanor and Park*)  "If you're going to read one graphic novel this year, make it this one."  (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))  "Sharp visuals, a nifty amalgam of fantasy and science fiction elements, and relationships drawn with complexity, wit, and depth create a world worth returning to again and again."  (Publishers Weekly (starred review))  "At its core, *Nimona* is a story of rescue. Each of the main characters rescue allies, friendships, the Kingdom, and ultimately, themselves."  A vibrant solo work.  (School Library Journal (starred review))  "[Stevenson's] voice is clear and precise, her drawings confident, her use of color growing in depth and assurance as the story progresses."  (New York Times)  "Nimona is beautifully flawed and refreshingly unstereotypical in a book that is both darkly witty and surprisingly touching. And Nimona is a protagonist to both love and fear."  (The Horn Book)  "Over the course of the collected *Nimona*, it's

possible to watch artist Noelle Stevenson blossom from a student to a superstar. (NPR.org) "Nimona, with all her flaws, breaks away completely from what women are allowed to be in popular fiction." (Vanity Fair) "Graphic novel fans will finish the book in a gallop and then want to start right back at the first page." (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review)) "Awesome and adorable." (Ryan North, author of Dinosaur Comics) "Funny and vibrant, with wonderful energy in Stevenson's illustrations and a wicked wit in her storytelling." (Slate) "Those of you who haven't read *Nimona* yet are lucky, because you can buy the fantasy comic in book form instead of waiting for Noelle to post an update twice a week. Seriously, that wait was always excruciating." (Bustle.com)

The story is 5 stars. I have been following this comic since it was posted online and it's an amazing rollercoaster of emotions. However the print copy arrived looking beat up. It's not anything that dampens my enjoyment of the story, but it's still disappointing. I thoroughly recommend getting a copy of this book since it's no longer online to read. It's a full story with extra pages that weren't published online. The art is gorgeous and the cover is amazing. It's a great deal for the price. The story starts with the kingdom's most infamous villain getting a super-powered sidekick. Except that he never requested one, and no one is really sure where she came from. I don't want to spoil too much since it's a short story when read cover to cover. If you're a fan of strong (in the physical sense) female antiheroes then this is the comic for you.

I finished just *Nimona*. It may be one of the best stories I've ever read. I'm not gonna say best comic book because I think it stands up to novels just as well as it does to other comic books. It's got really likable, well written and thought out characters. The plot is great! It's funny, but serious. There's a solid ending on it that feels hopeful and realistic, completely fitting the story. The world is amazingly well built. The art is a great fit for the story, being appealingly funny when the story is funny and creepily dark when the story calls for bad things to happen. I love Ballister, Ambrosius, and *Nimona*. The story is one of my favorites from here on out.

This was so good. It was funny, sweet, deep-cutting and overall just way better than I had any right to expect. I was upset by how soon I finished it because I just really wish there was more!!! But as much as I could wish for a longer series, I feel like it might risk sacrificing a lot of the stuff that made me love this book. So I'm really happy it's the way it is, and I know I'll keep revisiting and thinking

about these characters in my head for a while hopefully :)Also just as an aside the art was totally beautiful and the way some really intense scenes were conveyed (like transformation sequences and big plot scenes) was really terrific and I got a great sense for how the characters acted and moved and how that related to who they were.

Stevenson's *Nimona*, a National Book Award Finalist, mixes fantasy and sci-fi, with fairy tale/medieval elements of knights and monsters, witches and goblins, superheroes and villains in a world of television, science, and technology. Enter Nimona, a shapeshifting teen with a penchant for fighting and killer sense of humor. Nimona is the sidekick, her boss, Lord Ballister Blackheart, is the archvillain with a moral sense of right and wrong. Nimona urges us to question authority, to trust ourselves and those that we love and to remember that often we can create our own families, and to question what makes a hero, what defines a villain.

Stevenson's art is crisp, simple, with bold colors and thick lines and the text in each frame is minimal so much of the meaning in the story comes from these images.

I just received my copy of *Nimona* in the mail earlier tonight and have already devoured it in its entirety. It's not what I expected, but in all of the best ways. For some background, my recent avalanche of purchases of girl-centric comics was inspired by the Kickstarter for the anthology, *Valor*. *Valor* is, in short, amazing. The idea was to get together a bunch of comics and stories written by women featuring diverse girls kicking butt. And in that aspect, it succeeded wonderfully. However, due to the short nature of the pieces, it's hard to really develop a story. So I went seeking other fun girl power stories to share with the children (and adults, because comics are awesome) in my life. I couldn't be happier with *Nimona*. First of all, the entire story is contained in this hefty (at least for a comic/graphic novel) volume. There is enough story to really get a feel for the characters and their individual struggles, as well as the world that they live in. *Nimona* is not your typical protagonist. She's cheeky and likes to annoy her boss and often throws herself into bad situations for the fun of it. She has dark secrets and often makes the wrong decisions. She isn't concerned with the "rules" of being a villain. Her dialogue with Blackheart (and really all of the dialogue) is snappy and goofy and had me laughing out loud. The whole story is both hilarious and touching, even heartrending at times. So as an adult, definitely a must buy. For kids, I'd leave that to parent discretion. **WARNINGS:** *Nimona* is a smart story that doesn't pull punches. The characters are flawed individuals, and when the protagonists are villains, that often means that someone gets killed. There is also a certain running gag with names of heroes, particularly Sir Goldenloin and Sir

Girthrod, and one joking news story about whether Sir Goldenloin's codpiece is overcompensation.

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Nimona (Full Cast Audio Theater Adaptation) Nimona

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